
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Executive Order 39

THE VIRGINIA WATER SUPPLY INITIATIVE

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor under Article V and Article XI of the Constitution of Virginia and under the laws of the Commonwealth including, but not limited to, Chapter 1 of Title 2.2 of the Code of Virginia, and subject to my continuing and ultimate authority and responsibility to act in such matters, I hereby establish the Virginia Water Supply Initiative.

Importance of the Initiative

An adequate supply of clean, safe drinking water is an essential component of any modern society. Today, too many people in the Commonwealth lack access to clean, safe drinking water. This problem is not limited to any single region or type of locality. Urban, suburban, and rural residents alike face growing concerns about the long-term adequacy of their water supplies to meet public health, economic development, and agricultural needs.

The adequacy of our water supplies is a significant public health, quality of life, conservation, and economic development issue. Prudent use of Virginia's water resources is crucial to the health and welfare of the citizens of Virginia, continued economic prosperity, and the conservation of fish and wildlife resources. Moreover, the protracted drought that the Commonwealth is now experiencing emphasizes the need for more proactive water policy planning, more efficient and effective water delivery systems, and more innovative financing methods to maximize available resources for drinking water improvements.

Given the critical need for adequate water supplies across the Commonwealth, it is essential that state agencies efficiently and effectively coordinate their efforts with respect to major water supply functions. Accordingly, I hereby direct the Secretaries of

Commerce and Trade, Health and Human Resources, and Natural Resources to accomplish the following by June 30, 2003:

1. Establish a plan for meeting the drinking water needs within the next five years of an additional 25,000 Virginians who currently lack access to a reliable source of clean drinking water. This plan should include annual targets for how many people can be helped in each year.
2. Conduct outreach with local communities to identify drinking water needs and to heighten awareness of existing state resources.
3. Develop innovative strategies for financing drinking water needs in the Commonwealth.
4. Develop and issue guidelines for giving drinking water a priority in the application for and award of discretionary grants by state agencies.
5. Work with local government and other stakeholders to develop and implement a plan for tailoring state drinking water financing programs to encourage regional solutions to water supply needs.
6. Work through appropriate state agencies, with the involvement of local stakeholders, to get more appropriate projects ready for available financing.
7. Develop performance measurement standards for all water financing programs at the state level to provide meaningful measurements of the effectiveness of each program and to identify needed improvements.
8. Develop and implement a strategy for ensuring an additional 450 currently impaired streams meet water quality standards by 2010.

In addition, I hereby direct my Drought Coordinator to prepare a preliminary drought response assessment and plan by April 1, 2003.

Applicability of the Order

This Executive Order shall be effective immediately upon its signing and shall remain in full force and effect until June 30, 2003, unless amended or rescinded by further Executive Order.

Given under my hand and the Seal of the Commonwealth of Virginia, this 13th day of December, 2002.

Mark R. Warner, Governor

Attest:

Secretary of the Commonwealth